

Testimony before the CGA Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing on Proposed FY 23 Adjustments for Higher Ed Agencies
February 22, 2022
Elle Van Dermark

Thank you, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representatives Dathan and Nolan, and members of the Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to address you today.

My name is Elle Van Dermark and I teach at Asnuntuck Community College. I support the Board of Regents request for additional funding for our community college system. Although the governor made lofty promises in his state of the state, it is this committee that is saddled with establishing the necessary funding.

I am here this evening asking you to see the value of investing in our community colleges which translate to investing in the future of Connecticut.

In the recent Board of Regents Finance Meeting, the BOR Finance Committee proposed a 5% tuition increase for students. Few things could be worse for our students than the proposed increase in tuition. An increase in tuition at the community colleges has a disparate impact on the most vulnerable students. Our students already struggle to balance their school, work, and family demands. Increasing tuition shifts the burden of education to those in our communities with the least resources.

Public higher education needs more resources and I hope you will consider our pleas to fund the community colleges.

Thank you,

Elle Van Dermark